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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-13 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /065 W
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O R 201103Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7710
INFO CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS COMMENTS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS

FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT (FROM AUDIO TAPE) OF RESPONSES PRESIDENT MARCOS GAVE DURING IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PARTICIPANTS IN WORLD BANK/UNDP/ADB PRESS SEMINAR ON JULY 20. NEWSMEN'S ACTUAL QUESTIONS PARTIALLY INAUDIBLE ON TAPE.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. QUESTION: DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE ANY ACTION TOWARD SPEEDING THE TRIALS OF DETAINEES SUCH AS...?
PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE, QUOTE: YES, THIS IS ONE OF MATTERS BEING STUDIED RIGHT NOW, HOW TO EXPEDITE THIS. OUT OF A TOTAL OF 5,000 ARRESTED, 118 ARE ACTUALLY CHARGED WITH SUBVERSION WHICH SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER A POLITICAL CRIME, MEANING THAT THEY BELONG TO A GROUP THAT WHILE SUPPORTING THE SUBVERSION AND UNDERMINING AND REPLACEMENT OF GOVERN-MENT, COULD BE UTILIZED IN A GENERAL EFFORT OF OBTAINING UNITY. BUT THE OTHERS OUT OF THE 5,000 WERE COMMON CRIMINALS ACTUALLY FACING CHARGES OF COMMON CRIMES LIKE MURDER, ESTAFA (FRAUD) AS WELL AS SUCH CRIMES
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LIKE RAPE AND OTHERS THAT ARE FOUND IN OUR PENAL

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CODE, THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.
THOSE CRIMINALS COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED IN THE
REGULAR NATIONAL PENITENTIARY. FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE
THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH SPACE AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE
SOME OF THEM WERE RATHER DANGEROUS, SOME OF THEM
BELONGED TO THE OUTLAW BANDS THAT WERE
ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITIES LIKE MAFIA TYPE EXTORTION,
SYNDICATED CRIME AND THE LIKE. SO, THEY WERE GIVEN
A SPECIAL TREATMENT IN THE SENSE THEY WERE ISOLATED--
SUPPOSED TO BE IN ISOLATION. THE DIFFICULTIES OF
DETENTION, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THEY HAD TO BE GIVEN
SOME KIND OF LIBERTY AND THEY BEGIN TO CIRCULATE
AMONG SUBVERSIVES AND ANARCHISTS. CONSEQUENTLY, THERE
IS CONGESTION IN SOME OF THE DENTENTION CENTERS. WE
ARE NOW TRYING TO DECONGEST AND ONE OF THE PROBLEMS
IS THAT THE CASES ARE PENDING BECAUSE SOME OF THE
ACCUSED BROUGHT THEIR MATTERS TO HIGHER JUDICIAL
TRIBUNALS, LIKE THE SUPREME COURT, QUESTIONING THE
AUTHORITY OF MILITARY COMMISSIONS OR ASKING TO BE TRIED
BY CIVIL COURTS RATHER THAN MILITARY TRIBUNALS AND
EVEN QUESTIONING THE POWER OF THE PRESIDENT TO ARRENT THEM
AND DETAIN THEM OR SEEKING THE RELIEF KNOWN AS THE
WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS, WHICH MERELY MEANS THEY ARE
SEEKING FREEDOM. ALL HAVE BEEN PENDING IN SUPREME
COURT, HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED SINCE NOW SUPREME
COURT DECIDED AND CONFIRMED AND HAS RECONFIRMED--
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES THIS HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP,
BUT THERE HAVE BEEN REPEATED CASES OVER
THE JURSIDICTION OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNALS. NOW, I
HAVE ORDERED THAT EVERYBODY GO TO TRIAL AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, BECAUSE I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL THE CASES
PENDING BEFORE MILITARY COMMISSIONS FINALLY DECIDED
ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AND THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS
DISMANTLED. UNQUOTE. QUESTION: SIR, DOES
THIS INCLUDE SOME OF THE PROMINENT PERSONS, SUCH AS
SENATOR AQUINO? PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE, QUOTE: YES, YES,
EVERYBODY, NO EXCEPTIONS. YOU SEE WHEN I
ISSUED THE ORDER TO ACCELERATE, WE CAN NOT MAKE
ANY EXCEPTION. SO EVERYBODY WILL NOW HAVE TO GO TO
TRIAL. UNQUOTE. QUESTION; WHAT IS TIME FRAME?
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PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE, QUOTE: I ASKED THAT IT BE
EXPLAINED TO ME WHY ANY TRIAL HAS NOT STARTED BY THE
FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST. IF FOR ANY REASON THEE IS ANY
DELAY IN THE TRIAL, AN EXPLANATION IS TO BE SUBMITTED
IN WRITING. END QUOTE.
END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: MARCOS' COMMENTS ON DETAINEES WERE TO
AUDIENCE COMPOSED PRIMARILY OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.
IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THEY ARE
PLAYED IN GUIDED PRESS. AP (ZEITHLIN) STRESSES MARCOS
ORDER INCLUDES AQUINO AS WELL AS LOPEZ/OSMENA.
PRESIDENT DID NOT ACTUALLY MENTION THEM BY NAME
BUT STRESSED THERE WOULD BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO NEW
ORDER WHEN REPORTER ASKED IF IT INCLUDED AQUINO.
SENATOR AQUINO HAS CONSISTENTLY DENIED MILITARY
TRIBUNALS JURISDICTION. LOPEZ/OSMENA HAVE NOT ALTHOUGH
SOME OF THEIR ATTORNEYS HAVE. IN ANY EVENT, PRESIDENT
MARCOS IS NOW ON PUBLIC RECORD AS SAYING HE WANTS
BIG NAME DETAINEES TRIED BY FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST.
NEXT TWO WEEKS ON DETAINEE FRONT SHOULD BE RATHER ACTIVE
AND INTERESTING.SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANILA10621
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760278-1116
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760741/aaaabjtb.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MARCOS COMMENTS ON POLITICAL PRISONERS FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT (FROM AUDIO TAPE) OF RESPONSES
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006